

REMARKS

Applicants have included a complete listing of all the claims as indicated in the office action.

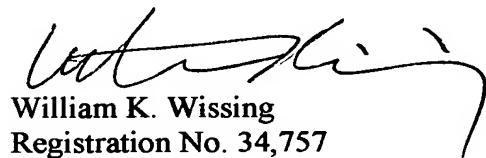
Claims 54 and 55 are pending in this application. Claim 54 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Wang et al. Claim 55 is objected to but is indicated to allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection. Applicants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered in view of the Amendment.

Applicants have amended claim 54 as noted to more clearly claim their invention. As Wang fails to disclose the composition of the inner core and outer structure, Applicants respectfully request that Wang fails to anticipate or suggest the stent as claimed in claim 54.

Applicants have amended claim 55 as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicants submit herewith an Information Disclosure Statement and the appropriate fee herewith. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the references render claims 54 or 55 unpatentable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance with respect to the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



William K. Wissing
Registration No. 34,757

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933
732.524.6201